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Charles

Hoover had letters from Cuba to Oswald

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two weeks after John F. Kennedy's death, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin but he wondered whether Oswald had help from secret conspirators in Cuba, according to FBI files released yesterday

The documents show that Hoover had concluded within hours after Kennedy's death that Oswald fired the fatal bullets. But the agency later obtained letters written to Oswald from Cuba, and those messages raised the perplexing conspiracy questions which linger to this day.

The mountain of material offers fresh clues about Hoover's suspicions of a conspiracy, but does not reveal how he resolved them. It will take historians and researchers months or even years to evaluate this batch of FBI files and more yet to come.

Hoover was not alone in pondering the possibility of a Cuban connection. Oswald had spoken of his admiration for Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro and he had distributed pro-Castro leaflets in New Orleans.

Castro has denied that Cuba was involved in the assassination in any way. The Warren Commission concluded after its investigation of the case that there was no evidence of any Cuban government role in Kennedy's death.

Although the documents indicated that Hoover pondered the possibility of a conspiracy, preliminary examination of the FBI files turned up nothing to disprove the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald acted alone.

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See under FBI, JFK releases 1977-8